

1. (Amended) An animated toy system comprising:
a toy figure having a body portion and at least one movable portion;
a loudspeaker situated within the body;
an actuator situated within the toy for moving the movable portion in response to the toy receiving [a digital data] logic-control signals;
means for transmitting an analog sound signal to the loudspeaker and the [data] logic-control signals to the actuator; and

a multimedia [home computer] system including,

a sound subsystem for generating [a] said analog sound signal representing spoken words for transmission to the loudspeaker over the means for transmitting,
memory for storing an array of [digital control codes] data representing said logic-control signals and correlated to said spoken words [representing movement of the actuator for movement of the movable portion],

[a data interface for generating, based on the digital control codes, the digital data signals for transmission over the means for transmitting], and

means for causing sequential transmission of [the digital data] said logic-control signals [from the data interface] according to a predetermined synchronization with the transmission of [the] said analog sound signal by [the] said sound [card] subsystem.

2. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the at least one movable portion includes a mouth and the [drive control codes] logic-control signals represent movement of the mouth in synchronization with transmission of the analog sound signal to simulate speaking.

3. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the multimedia [home computer] system further includes means for deriving the array of [digital control codes] logic-control signals from [a] text [file] data and the sound card includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing [a] said analog sound signal representing the words in the text data [file from the text file].

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 3 further including a [sound] dictionary [file] stored on the [computer] multimedia system and wherein the speech synthesizer looks up a sound signal for the [textual words] text data in the [sound] dictionary.

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5. (Amended) The system of Claim 4 wherein said [sound] dictionary [file] includes predetermined digital control codes for each word and the [home computer] multimedia system includes means for constructing [the array from the digital control codes in the dictionary file] and sequencing the array of logic-control signals from the dictionary.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 5 wherein the means for [deriving] constructing and sequencing the array of [binary digital codes] logic-control signals includes means for identifying whether a letter in a word of text data is a vowel and for assigning to each letter in each word in the text [file] data a [binary digital code] logic-control signal indicating a position of the movable portion [whether the mouth is to be open or closed].

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9. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the sound subsystem further includes means for recording spoken words and the [computer] multimedia system includes means for recognizing the spoken words.

10. (Amended) The system of Claim 9 wherein,
the means for recognizing the spoken words generates [a text file] text data,
the multimedia [home computer] system further includes means for deriving the array of [binary digital codes] logic-control signals from the text [file] data, and
the sound [card] subsystem includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing [a] said analog sound signal [representing the spoken words in the text file] from the text [file] data.

11. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the toy figure includes a second actuator for moving a second[, articulating member,] movable portion and the [digital control code] array of said logic-control signals includes a second dimension for storing [digital control codes] logic-control signals for the second actuator.

12. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the [computer] multimedia system includes a monitor and means for displaying animation on the monitor in coordination with said at least one movable portion [talking of the toy].

13. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the means for transmitting includes a cable having on one end a first plug for connecting with a first electronic circuit forming part of the sound subsystem and a second plug for connecting with a second electronic circuit [forming the] comprising an input/output port, and connecting at the opposite end with the toy figure.

14. (Amended) An animated talking toy system comprising:
a toy figure having a body and a moveable mouth;
a loudspeaker situated within the body;
an actuator having only two-phases for moving the mouth in a first direction in response to receiving a first [binary digital data] logic-control signal [representing] corresponding to a first predefined binary value and in a second direction in response to receiving a second [binary digital data] logic-control signal [representing] corresponding to a second predefined binary value;

means for transmitting [a] an analog sound signal to the loudspeaker and the first and second [binary digital data] logic-control signals to the actuator; and

a multimedia [home computer] system including,

a sound [card] subsystem for generating [a] said analog sound signal representing spoken words for transmission to the loudspeaker over the means for transmitting,

memory for storing an array of [binary digital control codes] said first and second predefined binary values, said binary values representing said logic-control signals for controlling the [representing] movement of the actuator for articulation of the mouth to simulate speaking,

[a data interface for generating based on the array a sequence of first and second binary digital data signals for transmission to the actuator over the means for transmitting,] and

means for causing sequential transmission of the first and second [binary digital data] logic-control signals according to a predetermined synchronization with transmission of the analog sound signal by the sound subsystem.

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15. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the actuator includes a switch operable by the [binary digital data] logic-control signal for switching current to a solenoid for causing movement of an element in response thereto for moving the mouth.

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16. (Amended) The system of Claim 15 wherein the element of the solenoid is coupled [by a string] to a pivoting portion of the mouth for applying torque to rotate the pivoting portion in a first direction against a biasing force applied by a spring to the pivoting portion in an opposite direction.

17. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the multimedia [home computer] system further includes means for deriving the array of [binary digital codes] logic-control signals from [a] text [file] data and the sound [card] subsystem includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing a sound signal representing the spoken words in the text data [file from the text file].

18. (Amended) The system of Claim [14] 17 further including a [sound] dictionary [file] stored on the [computer] multimedia system and wherein the speech synthesizer looks up a sound signal for the [textual words] text data in the [sound] dictionary.

19. (Amended) The system of Claim 18 wherein [sound] said dictionary [file] includes predetermined digital control codes and the [home computer] multimedia system includes means for creating and sequencing the array of [digital control codes] logic-control signals from the digital control codes.

20. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the sound subsystem further includes means for recording spoken words and the [computer] multimedia system includes means for recognizing the spoken words.

21. (Amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein,
the means for recognizing the spoken words generates [a] text data [file],
the multimedia [home computer] system further includes means for deriving the
array of [binary digital codes] logic-control signals from the text data [file], and
the sound subsystem [card] includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing a sound
signal representing the spoken words in the text data [file from the text file].

22. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the toy figure includes a second
actuator [for moving a second, articulating member,] and the [digital control code] array of
logic-control signals includes a second dimension for storing [digital control codes] logic-
control signals for the second actuator.

23. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the computer includes a monitor
and means for displaying animation on the monitor in coordination with [animation of the
toy] movement of said moveable mouth.

24. (Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein the means for transmitting
includes a cable having on one end a first plug for connecting with a first
electronic circuit forming part of the sound subsystem and a second plug for
connecting with a second electronic circuit forming [the] an input/output port.

25. (Amended) An animated talking toy figure comprising:
a small figure [with an appearance simulating that of a living animal, being or
creature, the figure] including a body and a moveable mouth;
a loudspeaker situated within the body;

an actuator situated inside the figure having only two-phases for moving the mouth in a first direction in response to receiving a first [binary digital data] logic-control signal representing a first binary data value and in [the other] an opposite direction in response to receiving a second [data] logic-control signal representing a second binary data value; and

an elongated cable extending from the toy for [receiving] coupling an analog audio signal [for] to the loudspeaker and [a binary digital control signal] said logic-control signals [to be used as a logic input for a switch for connecting power to drive the actuator] to said actuator.

26. (Amended) The animated talking toy figure of Claim 25 wherein the actuator further comprises a solenoid and [the] a switch, said logic-control signals selectively activating said switch to switch [switches] current to the solenoid for movement of an element.

27. (Amended) The system of Claim [25] 26 wherein the element [of the solenoid] is coupled [by a string] to a pivoting portion of the mouth for applying torque to rotate the pivoting portion in a first direction and wherein the actuator further includes a spring for applying a biasing force to the pivoting portion in an opposite direction to the force applied by the string.

28. (Amended) The system of Claim 25 wherein the figure further includes a moving arm and a second actuator having only two-phases for moving the arm, the second actuator moving the arm in a first direction in response to receiving a [third binary digital data] first logic-control signal [representing of the first binary value] and in [the] an opposite direction in response to receiving a second logic-control signal [the fourth binary digital representing the second binary value].